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LETTER DATED 9 JANUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 8 January 1999 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, concerning the persistence of United States and United Kingdom aircraft in carrying out acts of aggression against the Republic of Iraq; and the criminal act committed by those aircraft on 30 December 1998 of firing six missiles on an Iraqi village; and urging you to intervene in order to halt such aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 8 January 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to draw your attention to the fact that United States and United Kingdom aircraft are continuing their acts of aggression against the Republic of Iraq. On the morning of 30 December 1998 United States and United Kingdom aircraft committed a further criminal act against the security and sovereignty of Iraq, firing six missiles on the village of Al Salab in Muthanna Governorate, killing a number of citizens, including children, and injuring others. The United States-United Kingdom bombardment also demolished residential buildings, caused other material losses to property and destroyed the electricity poles on both sides of the road.

Such serious acts of aggression committed by two permanent members of the Security Council constitute a shameful violation of the sovereignty of an independent State and founder Member of the United Nations and a gross infraction of the Charter of the United Nations.

While condemning this aggressive and barbaric behaviour, we request you to intervene with the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom, pursuant to your responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations, in order to halt these unjustified acts of aggression, since they constitute a scandalous violation of the Charter and the provisions of international law. At the same time, Iraq reaffirms its right to respond at the appropriate time and to seek compensation for all the human, material and non-material losses it has sustained as a result of such acts, which are in contravention of the Charter and the provisions of international law relating to the principle of international responsibility.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated to members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Iraq